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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicant has carefully considered this application in connection with the Examiner's Action and respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

The Applicant originally submitted Claims 1-20 in the application. In a previous response to a restriction requirement, the Applicant elected Claims 1-3, 6-13 and 16-20. Presently, the Applicant has amended Claims 1, 6-9, 11 and 16-29. No other Claims have been amended, canceled nor added. Accordingly, Claims 1-20 are currently pending in the application.

I. Formal Matters and Objections

The Examiner has objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) for not including the reference numerals "214", "150" and "180". As the errors were not made to the drawings, but to the specification, the specification has been amended to be consistent with the FIGURES. The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's diligence in finding and bringing these errors to his attention and requests that the Examiner remove any and all objections to the drawings.

The Examiner has also objected to the Title as not being indicative of the invention in view of the elected Claims. Accordingly, the Title has been amended. Further, the Examiner has objected to the brief description of the drawings as not referring to FIGURE 8. Accordingly, the brief description of the drawings has been amended. Additionally, the Examiner has also objected to an inadvertent grammatical error on page 14, line 12. Accordingly, the inadvertent grammatical error has been corrected.

II. Rejection of Claims 1-3, 6-13 and 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-3, 6-13 and 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. More specifically, the Examiner believes that the statement that the first source/drain dopant and the substrate dopant are similar is unclear. The problem arises from different conventions for the description of channel dopants, or threshold adjustment dopants, in the art. While the Applicant originally described the region of the device considered a channel dopant as a first source/drain dopant, the Applicant understands that the original convention is one of a number of conventions used in the art, and therefore, that convention has been changed throughout the entire patent to be consistent with the most common convention. Additionally, any reference to a second source/drain dopant was changed to a source/drain dopant. As the amendments to the specification and claims were only related to changing one convention to another, no new matter is being added. Accordingly, the Applicant requests the §112, first paragraph, rejection be removed.

III. Rejection of Claims 1-3, 6-13 and 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner has also rejected Claims 1-3, 6-13 and 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. For the reasons set forth directly above, the Examiner's §112, second paragraph, rejection is deemed moot. Therefore, the Applicant requests the Examiner withdraw this rejection.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the Applicant now sees all of the Claims currently pending in this application to be in condition for allowance and therefore earnestly solicits a Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-20.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**"

The Applicant requests the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney of record at (972) 480-8800 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

HITT GAINES & BOISBRUN, P.C.



Greg H. Parker
Registration No. 44,995

Dated: 1-21-03

P.O. Box 832570
Richardson, Texas 75083
(972) 480-8800

APPLICATION NO. 09/755,828

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

(1) Kindly replace the Title at pages 1 and 25 with the following rewritten Title:

--[A Laterally Diffused Metal Oxide Semiconductor Device and
A Method of Manufacture Therefor] A Method for Manufacturing a
Laterally Diffused Metal Oxide Semiconductor Device--

(2) Kindly replace the summary of the invention beginning on page 5 with the following
rewritten summary:

--To address the above-discussed deficiencies of the prior art, the present invention provides a laterally diffused metal oxide semiconductor (LDMOS) device and a method of manufacture therefor. The method of manufacturing the LDMOS device includes forming an amorphous region in a semiconductor substrate between isolation structures and adjacent a gate structure, by implanting an amorphizing element, such as silicon or germanium, in the semiconductor substrate. The method further includes diffusing a [first source/drain] channel dopant from the amorphous region, wherein the [first source/drain] channel dopant is used to form a first portion of a channel. It should be realized that a subsequent heat treatment of the device structure may anneal out the amorphous region.

The present invention therefore introduces a method for manufacturing an LDMOS device that does not experience uncontrollable boron diffusion, as experienced using the prior art methods. Moreover, the inclusion of the amorphizing element within the semiconductor substrate substantially reduces the number of silicon defects resulting from the prior art boron implants. As a result of the present invention, more reliable and cost efficient LDMOS devices may be manufactured.

The foregoing has outlined, rather broadly, preferred and alternative features of the present invention so that those skilled in the art may better understand the detailed description of the invention that follows. Additional features of the invention will be described hereinafter that form the subject of the claims of the invention. Those skilled in the art should appreciate that they can readily use the disclosed conception and specific embodiment as a basis for designing or modifying other structures for carrying out the same purposes of the present invention. Those skilled in the art should also realize that such equivalent constructions do not depart from the spirit and scope of the invention in its broadest form.--

(3) Kindly replace the brief description of the drawings beginning on page 7 with the following rewritten brief description:

--The invention is best understood from the following detailed description when read with the accompanying FIGURES. It is emphasized that in accordance with the standard practice in the semiconductor industry the various features are not drawn to scale. In fact, the dimensions of the various features may be arbitrarily increased or reduced for clarity of discussion. Reference is now made to the following descriptions taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIGURE 1 illustrates a cross-sectional view of a completed laterally diffused metal oxide semiconductor (LDMOS) device manufactured by the method described herein;

FIGURE 2 illustrates a partially completed LDMOS device, including a semiconductor substrate;

FIGURE 3 illustrates the partially completed LDMOS device illustrated in FIGURE 2 after forming photoresist portions and an amorphous region;

FIGURE 4 illustrates the partially completed LDMOS device illustrated in FIGURE 3, after diffusing a [first source/drain] channel dopant laterally within the amorphous region, which is on a first side of the gate structure;

FIGURE 5 illustrates a graph (for illustrative purposes only) that shows a concentration of the channel dopant at various depths for a situation where the amorphous region was employed (gaussian distribution) and a situation where the amorphous region was not employed (random distribution);

FIGURE [5] 6 illustrates the partially completed LDMOS device illustrated in FIGURE 4, after removal of the photoresist portions, formation of new photoresist portions, and formation of [second] a source/drain dopant in the semiconductor substrate and on a second side of the gate structure;

FIGURE [6] 7 illustrates the partially completed LDMOS device illustrated in FIGURE [5] 6, after placing a heavy concentration of the [second] source/drain dopant on the first and second side of the gate; and

FIGURE [7] 8 illustrates a completed integrated circuit, which represents one environment in which the previously described method of manufacturing an LDMOS device could be used.--

(4) Kindly replace the detailed description beginning on page 9 with the following rewritten detailed description:

--Referring initially to FIGURE 1, illustrated is a cross-sectional view of a completed laterally diffused metal oxide semiconductor (LDMOS) device 100 manufactured by the method described herein. The LDMOS device 100 includes a semiconductor wafer 105, a semiconductor substrate 110, and first and second isolation structures 115. It should be noted that the semiconductor substrate 110 may be any layer located in the LDMOS device 100, including the semiconductor wafer 105 or a layer located above the semiconductor wafer 105.

The LDMOS device 100 further includes a gate structure 120 located over the semiconductor substrate 110 and between the first and second isolation structures 115. The gate structure 120, in the illustrative embodiment, includes a conventional gate oxide 130 and poly gate 140. As illustrated, a [first source/drain] channel dopant 160 is located on a side of the gate structure 165. Because of the unique method of manufacturing the LDMOS device 100, which will be discussed in greater detail below, the [first source/drain] channel dopant 160 has a substantially ideal distribution.

The completed LDMOS device 100 may further include a [second] source/drain dopant 170 located within the semiconductor substrate 110 and on another side of the gate structure 175. Furthermore, located on both sides of the gate structure 165, 175, is a heavy concentration of the [second] source/drain implant 180.

The LDMOS device 100 manufactured according to the method described below does not experience the uncontrollable P-type dopant diffusion as experienced in the prior art devices. More

specifically, the P-type dopants may be included within the LDMOS device, with a high degree of certainty that the P-type dopant is only located where desired, e.g., a substantially ideal distribution. Likewise, the LDMOS device 100 does not contain many of the crystal defects contained in the prior art devices. Furthermore, the method reduces many reliability issues, and is easy to adapt to the current manufacturing process.

Turning to FIGURES 2-6, illustrated are various stages of manufacture of the completed LDMOS device 100 illustrated in FIGURE 1. FIGURE 2 illustrates a partially completed LDMOS device 200, including a semiconductor substrate 210. Located within the semiconductor substrate 210 are first and second isolation structures 215, formed in a prior step not shown. As illustrated, the isolation structures 215 are field oxides, however, it should be noted that any known or hereinafter discovered isolation structure 215 could be used.

Depending on whether the partially completed LDMOS device 200 is going to be a laterally diffused P-type metal oxide semiconductor (LDPMOS) device or a laterally diffused N-type metal oxide semiconductor (LDNMOS) device, the semiconductor substrate 210 is conventionally doped with phosphorous or boron, respectively. As illustrated, the semiconductor substrate 210 is a P-type doped semiconductor substrate.

Formed over the semiconductor substrate 210, in another step not shown, is a conventional gate structure 220. The conventional gate structure 220 may include a conventionally formed gate oxide 230 and poly gate 240. Forming the gate structure 220 uses many conventional processes known to those skilled in the art, including forming a blanket gate oxide layer and a blanket poly gate layer, depositing and patterning photoresist over the blanket poly gate layer, and etching those areas unprotected by photoresist to form the gate structure 220. Since many of the methods used to form

the gate structure 220 are conventional, many of the other details regarding the formation of the gate structure 220 have been omitted.

Turning to FIGURE 3, illustrated is the partially completed LDMOS device 200 illustrated in FIGURE 2 after forming an amorphous region 310. Prior to forming the amorphous region 310, photoresist portions 320 were formed on a first side of the gate structure 330, while leaving a second side of the gate structure 340 unprotected. One having skill in the art understands how to form the photoresist portion 320, including conventionally depositing a layer of photoresist material over a surface of the LDMOS device 200, patterning the layer of photoresist material by exposing certain portions of the photoresist layer to radiation, and washing the patterned layer leaving the photoresist portion 320.

Subsequent to forming the photoresist portions 320, the unprotected area of the semiconductor substrate 210 is implanted using an amorphizing element, thus forming the amorphous region 310. As illustrated, the amorphous region 310 is located in the semiconductor substrate 210, and extends from only one of the first and second isolation structures [214] 215. It should be noted, however, in an alternative embodiment of the invention the amorphous region 310 is also located in the poly gate 240. If the amorphizing element is included at a high enough concentration, the amorphizing element breaks virtually all of the atomic bonds within the lattice structure of the semiconductor substrate 210. The breaking of the atomic bonds results from the transfer of kinetic energy from the amorphizing element to the silicon lattice. The amorphous region 310, in a subsequent step, allows for a more ideal distribution of the implanted dopant.

In an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the amorphizing element is silicon or germanium having an implant dose of at least about $1\text{E}15$ atoms/cm² or at least about $1\text{E}14$

atoms/cm², respectively. It should be noted however that any other known or hereafter discovered amorphizing element may be used, and is within the scope of the present invention.

In one advantageous situation, the amorphizing element is implanted using an implanting power ranging from about 50 KeV to about 150 KeV. It should be noted, however, that the power used to implant the amorphizing element may vary, but it should be large enough to diffuse the amorphizing element to a depth great enough to encompass a subsequent diffusion of a [first source/drain] channel dopant. In an exemplary embodiment, the [first source/drain] channel dopant is diffused to a depth of about 100 nm, thus, the amorphizing element should be implanted to a depth ranging from about 180 nm to about 200 nm.

Turning to FIGURE 4, illustrated is the partially completed LDMOS device 200 illustrated in FIGURE 3, after implanting a [first source/drain] channel dopant 410 within the amorphous region 310, the amorphous region 310 being located on the second side of the gate structure 340. In the illustrative embodiment, the [first source/drain] channel dopant 410 may comprise a P-type dopant. Furthermore, in an exemplary embodiment, the [first source/drain] channel dopant 410 may be implanted having an implant dose ranging from about 1E12 atoms/cm² to about 1E14 atoms/cm².

As illustrated, the [first source/drain] channel dopant 410 may be entirely contained within the amorphous region 310. As recited earlier, the [first source/drain] channel dopant 410 may be implanted to a depth of about 100 nm, therefore, for the [first source/drain] channel dopant 410 to be entirely contained within the amorphous region 310, the amorphizing element should be implanted to a depth greater than about 120 nm, and more preferably, to a depth greater than about 180 nm. Similarly, it is desired to use the same photoresist portions 320 to form the amorphous

region 310 as used to form the [first source/drain] channel dopant 410. As a result, the amorphous region 310 and [first source/drain] channel dopant 410 are typically formed in the same region.

Because of the amorphous region 310, the [first source drain] channel dopant 410 may be included within the device 200, having an expected distribution, such as a gaussian distribution. Turning to FIGURE 5, shown is a graph 500 (for illustrative purposes only) that illustrates a concentration of the [first source/drain] channel dopant 410 at various depths for a situation where the amorphous region was employed 510 (gaussian distribution) and a situation where the amorphous region was not employed 520 (random distribution). As is illustrated, the situation where the amorphous region was employed 510 has a lower concentration at a depth equal to about 2 sigma (about 105 nm), than the region where the amorphous region was not employed 520. More specifically, in the embodiment illustrated, the concentrations may differ by up to about 1000 magnitudes at such a depth. Moreover, not only is the distribution expected, but it may be anticipated, which is in contrast to the prior art situation where the resulting profile is unknown. Because of the known desire to include the [first source/drain] channel dopant 410 within the device 200 only where it is expected, one skilled in the art understands that the amorphous region 310 provides a substantial benefit. It should be noted that while the graph 500 was used as an example, the present invention should not be limited to the concentrations or depths included therein.

Turning to FIGURE 6, subsequent to implanting the [first source/drain] channel dopant 410 within the amorphous region 310, an anneal may be performed, diffusing the source/drain dopant 410 in other regions of the device. As may be noticed, a portion of the [first source/drain] channel dopant 410 may diffuse under the gate structure 220, forming a first portion of the channel 605. Even after the diffusion of the [first source/drain] channel dopant 410, it may maintain a

substantially ideal profile. In an advantageous embodiment of the invention, the diffusion occurs at a temperature of greater than about 600°C. Furthermore, in an exemplary embodiment, the diffusion re-crystallizes the amorphous region 310 (FIGURE 4) causing it to return nearly to its original pre-amorphous state. This particular embodiment is illustrated in FIGURE 6 wherein no amorphous region 310 remains.

Also illustrated in FIGURE 6 is the removal of the photoresist portions 320 (FIGURE 4), formation of new photoresist portions 610, and formation of a [second] source/drain dopant 620 in the semiconductor substrate 210 and on the first side of the gate structure 330. One skilled in the art understands how to remove the photoresist portions 320 and form the new photoresist portions 610. As illustrated, the new photoresist portions 610 may be formed such that the second side of the gate structure 340 is protected.

After forming the new photoresist portions 610, the [second] source/drain dopant 620 may be diffused laterally in the semiconductor substrate 210 and on the first side of the gate structure 330. As illustrated, the [second] source/drain dopant 620 may be laterally diffused under the gate structure 220. In the embodiment disclosed above, where the [first source/drain] channel dopant 410 is a P-type dopant, the [second] source/drain dopant 620 may be an N-type dopant, such as a phosphorous lightly doped source/drain dopant. It is desired for the [second] source/drain dopant 620 to have an implant dose ranging from about $1\text{E}12$ atoms/cm² to about $1\text{E}14$ atoms/cm², however, in an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the [second] source/drain dopant 620 has an implant dose of about $5\text{E}12$ atoms/cm². In an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the [second] source/drain dopant 620 has a depth of about 3000 nm.

Turning to FIGURE 7, illustrated is the partially completed LDMOS device 200 illustrated in FIGURE 6, after placing a heavy concentration of the [second] source/drain dopant 710 on the first and second sides of the gate structure 330, 340. As illustrated, a photoresist portion 720 may be formed over a portion of the gate structure 220 and a portion of the first side of the gate structure 330, prior to diffusing the heavy concentration of the [second] source/drain dopant 710. In such an instance, the heavy concentration of the [second] source/drain dopant 710 may be placed a distance ranging from about 2000 nm to about 3000 nm from the gate structure 220 on the first side of the gate structure 330. In an exemplary embodiment, the heavy concentration 710 has an implant dose ranging from about $1\text{E}15$ atoms/cm² to about $1\text{E}16$ atoms/cm². After removing the photoresist portion 720, a device, similar to the LDMOS device 100 illustrated in FIGURE 1, is achieved.

Turning briefly to FIGURE 8, with continued reference to FIGURE 1, illustrated is a completed integrated circuit 800, which represents one environment in which the previously described method of manufacturing a LDMOS device 100 could be used. The integrated circuit 800 may include laterally diffused metal oxide semiconductor (LDMOS) devices, traditional CMOS devices, bipolar CMOS (BiCMOS) devices, dynamic random access memory (DRAM) devices, electrically erasable programmable read-only memory (EEPROM) devices, including Flash EEPROMs, or any other type of similar device. Also shown in one advantageous embodiment of the integrated circuit 800, are components of the integrated circuit 800, including: isolation structures 115, the gate structure 120, [the amorphous region 150,] the [first source/drain] channel dopant 160, and the [second] source/drain dopant 170[, and the heavy concentration of the source/drain implant 180]. Also included in the completed integrated circuit 800 are dielectric layers 810, and

interconnect structures 820 located within the dielectric layers 810, connecting the LDMOS devices 100 to form an operational integrated circuit 800.

Although the present invention has been described in detail, those skilled in the art should understand that they can make various changes, substitutions and alterations herein without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention in its broadest form.--

(5) Kindly amend the Abstract beginning on page 25 as follows:

--A laterally diffused metal oxide semiconductor (LDMOS) device and a method of manufacture therefor. The method of manufacturing the LDMOS device includes forming an amorphous region in a semiconductor substrate between isolation structures and adjacent a gate structure, by implanting an amorphizing element, such as silicon or germanium, in the semiconductor substrate. The method further includes diffusing a [first source/drain] channel dopant laterally in the amorphous region to form a first portion of a channel.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

(1) Kindly amend Claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method of manufacturing a laterally diffused metal oxide semiconductor (LDMOS) device, comprising:

forming an amorphous region in a semiconductor substrate between isolation structures and adjacent a gate structure by implanting an amorphizing element in the semiconductor substrate;
and

diffusing a [first source/drain dopant] channel dopant laterally in the amorphous region to form a first portion of a channel.

(2) Kindly amend Claim 6 as follows:

6. (Amended) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein diffusing a [first source/drain dopant] channel dopant laterally in the amorphous region includes diffusing a first P-type source/drain dopant to a depth of about 100 nm, and implanting an amorphizing element includes implanting an amorphizing element to a depth ranging from about 180 nm to about 200 nm.

(3) Kindly amend Claim 7 as follows:

7. (Amended) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein diffusing a [first source/drain dopant] channel dopant laterally in the amorphous region includes diffusing a [first source/drain dopant] channel dopant on a first side of the gate structure and further including diffusing a [second] source/drain dopant laterally in the semiconductor substrate and on a second side of the gate structure.

(4) Kindly amend Claim 8 as follows:

8. (Amended) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein diffusing a [first source/drain dopant] channel dopant includes diffusing a [first source/drain dopant] channel dopant at a temperature above about 600°C that re-crystallizes the amorphous region.

(5) Kindly amend Claim 9 as follows:

9. (Amended) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein diffusing a [first source/drain dopant] channel dopant includes diffusing a [first source/drain dopant] channel dopant having a gaussian distribution within the amorphous region.

(6) Kindly amend Claim 11 as follows:

11. (Amended) A method of manufacturing an integrated circuit, comprising:
fabricating laterally diffused metal oxide semiconductor (LDMOS) transistors, including:

forming an amorphous region in a semiconductor substrate between isolation structures and adjacent a gate structure by implanting an amorphizing element in the semiconductor substrate; and

diffusing a [first source/drain dopant] channel dopant laterally in the amorphous region to form a first portion of a channel;

depositing interlevel dielectric layers over the LDMOS transistors; and

creating interconnect structures in the interlevel dielectric layers that interconnect the LDMOS transistors to form an operative integrated circuit.

(7) Kindly amend Claim 16 as follows:

16. (Amended) The method as recited in Claim 11 wherein diffusing a [first source/drain dopant] channel dopant laterally in the amorphous region includes diffusing a first P-type dopant to a depth of about 100 nm, and implanting an amorphizing element includes implanting an amorphizing element to a depth ranging from about 180 nm to about 200 nm.

(8) Kindly amend Claim 17 as follows:

17. (Amended) The method as recited in Claim 11 wherein diffusing a [first source/drain dopant] channel dopant laterally in the amorphous region includes diffusing a [first source/drain dopant] channel dopant on a first side of the gate structure and further including diffusing a [second] source/drain dopant laterally in the semiconductor substrate and on a second side of the gate structure.

(9) Kindly amend Claim 18 as follows:

18. (Amended) The method as recited in Claim 11 wherein diffusing a [first source/drain dopant] channel dopant includes diffusing a [first source/drain dopant] channel dopant at a temperature above about 600°C that re-crystallizes the amorphous region.

(10) Kindly amend Claim 19 as follows:

19. (Amended) The method as recited in Claim 11 wherein diffusing a [first source/drain dopant] channel dopant includes diffusing a [first source/drain dopant] channel dopant having a gaussian distribution within the amorphous region.